

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- O F T H E -

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1951.





CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Chairman : Mr. W.W. Jones.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. F.C. Walker.

Councillors:

Mrs. K. Amooore,	Mrs. C.P.O. Micklethwait,
Mr. R.J. Anstey,	Mr. A.H. Morgan,
Mr. R.G. Benjamin,	Mr. H.L. Morgan,
Mr. A.J. Bevan,	Mr. L. Nevison,
Mr. T.W. Bevan,	Mr. R.A. Newall,
Mr. R.L. Clay,	Mr. A.S. Nicholas,
Mr. D.T. Coleman,	Mr. W.J. Parker,
Mr. E.M. Davies,	Mr. D.H. Parry,
Mr. W.H. Gale,	Mr. D.F.E. Price,
Rev. D.E. Gravell,	Mr. J.W. Price,
Mr. E. Griffiths,	Mr. C.R. Read,
Mrs. G.I. Heath,	Mr. T.S. Rowlands,
Mr. S.M. Hill,	Mr. R.R. Thomas,
Mr. H. Hughes,	Mr. S.J. Thorne,
Mr. E. Johnson,	Mr. W.J. Titley,
Mr. W.J. Jordan,	Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes.
Mr. W.H. Margretts,	

Officers of the Council:

Clerk - Mr. G.D. Spearing.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Deputy Clerk - Mr. T.T. Birbeck, F.A.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor - Mr. L. Whittingham, M.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., Cert S.I.B., M.A.Rur.S., Certified
Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.S.E.,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B.,
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Rate Collectors:

Caldicot Collection District - Mr. R.A. Squibbs
Mathern Collection District - Mr. M.E. Smith
Shirenewton Collection District - Mr. F.C. Price.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R.D.C. Offices,

Chepstow, Mon.

To :- The Chairman and Members of the
Chepstow Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health
and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year
ended 31st December, 1951.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 42,459.

Population.

Estimated mid-year Home Population 10,180
On last year's figures this shows
an increase of 90.

BIRTHS

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	84	75	159
Illegitimate	3	4	7

In 1950 the total births were 155.

Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2

In 1950 there were 5 still births.

Infant Mortality.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.			
(i) Legitimate	8	2	10
(ii) Illegitimate	1	1	2

Deaths of Infants
under 4 weeks of age.

(i) Legitimate	6	1	7
(ii) Illegitimate		1	1

Table 1 gives a list of infant deaths under 1 year of age giving age at and cause of death.

In 1950 there were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year.

DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths	74	57	131

This shows an increase of 17 over 1950, but live-births over deaths show an increase in population of 35.

Table II gives a classification of the causes of death and the number of deaths attributed to each cause. There was one death attributed to Respiratory Tuberculosis in 1950, but this year there were no deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Whooping Cough as in last. In 1950 there were no maternal deaths from pregnancy, child-birth or abortion, but this year there was one.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Immunisation.

During the year the number of primary inoculations was 203 and re-inoculations 401.

Scarlet Fever.

4 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as against 12 in 1950.

Measles.

103 notifications were received and of these 62 were of children in the age group 5 - 10 years. This shows an increase of 78 over last year's notifications and this is explained by an epidemic that occurred in the southern part of the district.

Whooping Cough.

There was only one notification but it is hard to believe that only one case occurred in the district.

Food Poisoning.

On the 14th September, 1951, two cases of food poisoning were notified. The infection occurred in a brother and sister, aged 7 years and 5 years respectively, and was due to the organism *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. The incubation period was approximately 9 hours.

There had been seven cases in the Pontypool R.D.C., and pies were the common food. No remains of eaten pies were recovered but other pies were submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The boy was admitted to hospital but the girl remained at home.

On the 19th November, 1951, examination of the faeces showed that the girl was free from infection, but it was not until 13th December, 1951 that the boy was free.

Tuberculosis.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year :-

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| (i) Male - Age 27 years. | Lungs |
| (ii) Female - Age 31 years. | Lungs |
| (iii) Female - Age 18 years. | Lungs |
| (iv) Male - Age 47 years. | Lungs |
| (v) Male - Age 23 years. | Lungs |
| (vi) Female - Age 23 years. | Glands Neck. |

6 cases were admitted to hospital and 6 were discharged.

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TABLE I

Year 1951.

Infant Deaths under One year of age.

(i) One month	Ia. Broncho-pneumonia.
(ii) 18 hours	Ia. Cardiac Failure b. Asphyxia c. Inspired mucus.
(iii) 2 hours	Ia. Prematurity. Ilb. 8 ozs.
(iv) 4 months	Ia. Acute Purulent Bronchitis.
(v) 6 weeks	Ia. Respiratory Failure. b. obstruction of bronchus by congenital abnormality.
(vi) 1 day	Ia. Haemolytic disease of newborn.
(vii) 4 days	Ia. Atelectasis.
(viii) 4 months	Pyelonephritis.
(ix) 3 weeks	Meningocoele - Spina Bifida.
(x) 12 hours	Atelectasis Prematurity.
(xi) 2 days	Prematurity Aspiration Pneumonia.
(xii) 4 days	Atelectasis Extreme Prematurity.

Illegitimate (iv) and (vi).

TABLE II
DEATHS 1951.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-
Diabetes.	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	11
Coronary disease, angina.	10	2
Hypertension with heart disease.	3	-
Other heart disease.	15	13
Other circulatory disease.	3	-
Influenza.	3	2
Pneumonia.	2	-
Bronchitis.	6	6
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum.	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1
Congenital malformations.	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	11	7

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Motor vehicle accidents.	2	1
All other accidents.	2	-
Suicide.	1	-
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
All causes	74	57
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DEC 1951.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.												AGE GROUPS.					Total all ages.	DEATHS.			AGE GROUPS. Total					No. admit- ted to hospl.
	Under 1 yr.			1 2 3 4 5			10 15 20 35 45			10 15 20 35 45			1 20 35 45 65			1 20 35 45 65			1 20 35 45 65								
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over ages.	1	20	35	45	65	over ages.		1	20	35	45	65	over ages.			
Diphtheria																											
Scarlet Fever.																											
Enteric Fever.																											
Pneumonia.																											
Puerperal Fever.																											
Cerebro Spinal Fever																											
Acute Poliomyelitis																											
Enceph. Lethargica																											
Dysentery.																											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																											
Puerperal Pyrexia																											
Measles & German Measles.	2	9	12	9	6	2	3	2	1	3		103															
Whooping cough.																											
Other Diseases.																											
State Nature. Food Poisoning.																											
TOTALS.	2	9	12	10	6	5	6	2	1	3		110							1					2	1		

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report
for the Year 1951.

Inspections during the Year.

Darics and Cowsheds	...	...	8
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	23
Bekehouses	...	...	19
Food Inspection	...	...	46
Drainage	...	...	104
Drain Testing	...	...	26
Sewerage	...	...	175
Water Supply	...	...	352
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	132
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	...	...	21
Nuisances	...	...	21
Disinfestation	...	...	44
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	217
Shops Acts	...	...	92
Housing Accommodation	...	...	187
Building Control	...	...	94
Housing Sites	...	...	200
Council House Repairs	...	...	232
Camping Sites	...	...	28
Hutted Camps	...	...	166
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	193
Factories	...	...	76
Building Byelaws	...	...	273
Petrol Licences	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	520

Work Done.

by owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	31
Drainage Repairs	...	...	4
Nuisances abated	...	...	7

by owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	7
Drainage Repairs	...	...	1
Nuisances abated	...	...	-

Notices Served.

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	16
Informal Under Public Health Acts	...	38
Statutory Under Public Health Acts	...	4
Statutory Under Housing Acts.	...	8

HOUSING.

Dwelling houses inspected under P.H. Acts or Housing Acts	345
Number of inspections made for the purpose	370
Number of houses inspected under Housing Consolidated Regs	217
Number of inspections made for the purpose	217
Number of houses injurious or dangerous to health	15
Number of houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	52
Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	35

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 of HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF HOUSING ACT 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 5 cases of overcrowding were noted and 3 families were re-housed

BUILDING BYELAWS AND PLANNING.

During the year 72 plans for buildings and alterations were approved, 1 of which was subject to a temporary licence.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

A total of 20 Building Licences were issued to the value of £13,320, and of these 6 licences to the value of £8,739, were in respect of new dwellings.

WATER SUPPLY.

The parishes of Portskewett, most of Caldicot and Rogiet are supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Chepstow Water Company and distributed in mains laid and owned by the Council. Part of the Village of Mathern is supplied by Chepstow Water Company through their own mains, whilst the remainder of the Village, together with the Parish of Caerwent, is supplied with water obtained from the Chepstow Water Co. and distributed through mains owned by the Monmouthshire County Council.

The parish of Undy is supplied with water purchased in bulk from Magor and St. Mellons R.D.C., the source of supply being at Newport Corporation's gathering grounds at Wentwood. Highmoor Hill, which forms part of the parish of Caldicot, received water which is purchased in bulk direct from Newport Corporation. The quantity of the water has been sufficient and the quality has been generally satisfactory with the exception of one bacteriological sample.

The parish of Devauden is supplied by a scheme installed by the Council in which hydraulic rams are employed to pump the water to a high level storage tank before it gravitates to the village. The quantity has been increased by the relaying of a defective length of feed pipe to the rams, and during the year there was no shortage. This may be partly explained by the fact that there was no severe drought period as in other years. During the year the mains were extended and a further 17 houses were provided with a piped supply. No one now depends upon a standpipe for water supply in the Devauden area. The need still exists for improved storage facilities and it is hoped that some effort will be made in this direction during the year 1952. Fourteen bacteriological samples taken during the year have shown that the quality of the water has not deteriorated since the work was carried out last year at the springs which are the source.

The village of St. Arvans is supplied by a small scheme and although the quantity has been satisfactory, eight bacteriological samples came below the Ministry of Health standard. Work was carried out at the end of the year at the source of supply and it is hoped that satisfactory results will be shown in the year 1952.

The village of Shirenewton is supplied with a small private scheme, but the Council have voluntarily made themselves responsible for pumping arrangements. The source of supply is from a spring which flows to an underground storage tank and is then pumped to a high level tank from which it gravitates to the village. As a result of unsatisfactory bacteriological analyses, the source of pollution was found at the underground tank and after repairing and cleansing, satisfactory samples were taken.

The remainder of the district is served with small private schemes, wells and springs and the quality and quantity from many of these sources, particularly in the Earlswood and Tintern areas, has been unsatisfactory. The only satisfactory solution is the provision of extensive new piped supplies.

Bacteriological Samples from Piped Supplies.

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	Results	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
St. Arvans	8	8	-	-	8
Caldicot - (Highmoor Hill)	4	-	4	4	-
Undy	9	-	9	9	-
Rogiet	10	-	10	9	1
Devauden	14	14	-	14	-
Caerwent	5	-	5	5	-
Mathern	6	-	6	6	-
Shirenewton	8	8	-	4	4
TOTAL	64	30	34	51	13

Supplies by Public Water Mains.

Parish	Population supplied direct to houses	Number of houses	Population supplied by standpipes.	Number of houses
Caerwent	633	181	-	-
Caldicot	1743	498	132	38
Devauden	493	141	-	-
Kilgwrrwg	52	15	-	-
Llangwm	-	-	-	-
Llanvihangel- Rogiet.	24	7	15	4
Mathern	763	218	24	7
Portskewett	1109	317	-	-
Rogiet	1152	329	-	-
St. Arvans	318	91	35	10
Shirenewton	-	-	-	-
Tintern	-	-	-	-
Undy	595	170	21	6

SEWERAGE.

No major sewerage schemes were carried out during the year, but attention is again drawn to the problem at Caldicot where the pumping arrangements are inadequate in times of heavy storm. A large portion of the village sewage is pumped by twin stereophagus electric pumps to the West End of the village and thence gravitates to the sea outfall. It is felt that the 4" cast iron rising main from the pumphouse to the West End may be badly silted and it is hoped to have this cleansed during the forthcoming year and the efficiency of the pumps also increased. This will ease the situation somewhat but the only effective answer to the problem is the provision of a new sewerage system throughout the village.

Improvement to two existing sewerage schemes were carried out at Sudbrook and Rogiet where broken stoneware pipes were removed and replaced with cast iron. At Rogiet 210 feet of 12" cast iron pipes were laid whilst at Sudbrook a new outfall and length of sewer was provided.

A new sewage disposal plant was provided to ten Council houses at Shirenewton where the previous method of drainage was to cesspools. This was done at a cost of £626.

During the year a new Public Convenience was built at Tintern thus providing a much needed amenity.

FOOD.

Most of the food premises were working under hygienic conditions and regular inspections were made. No slaughtering of animals was carried out during the year as all carcase meat is received from Newport Abbattoir, where inspection is made at the time of slaughter. Routine visits are made to the Allocation Centre at Caldicot which is not a particularly suitable building for this purpose, but in view of the acute sense of cleanliness on the part of the butchers and the fact that the meat only remains in the centre for an hour or so, no action is proposed at this stage. It was noted that the conditions of transport were markedly improved and no complaint was received regarding filthy or damaged meat due to neglect in this respect.

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were :-

32 lbs Dried Prunes
8 $\frac{1}{4}$ doz Jellies
3 lbs Butter
3 lbs Cheese
24 tins Cherries
701 tins Miscellaneous goods.

Ice Cream.

One additional registration was made so that a total number of 12 premises were registered at the end of the year. 31 samples were taken and of these 16 were placed in provisional Grade I. The majority of the remainder were in Grade II and as all the ice cream is obtained prepacked, and in view of the fact that Grade I samples were finally obtained from each premises, no action was taken.

HOUSING.

The necessity for repairs to existing houses becomes more apparent each year, but in view of the disparity between the cost of repairs and the amount of rent received, it is increasingly difficult for property owners to maintain houses in a reasonably fit state. For this reason, the service of Statutory Notices has been kept to a minimum and every effort is made to deal with repairs informally.

The rate of building during the year was disappointing and the following new houses were completed :-

St. Arvans	4
Devauden	4
Caldicot	12
Undy	2

In addition to these the following houses were in course of erection :-

Tintern	12
Caldicot	10
St. Arvans	4

Work was also started on the conversion of a Womens Land Army Hostel at Llanishen into 6 flats, but this was not completed at the end of the year.

The Council are still responsible for the management of 51 huts at 4 camps within the district and during the year 4 occupants of these huts were re-housed in Council Houses. An effort was made to improve the standard of accommodation at the remaining huts and £1,036 was spent on general repairs and improvements. These huts are becoming an increasing liability and it is felt that the time will soon arrive when it will be preferable to transfer occupants from the worst of the hutments to those in better condition when they become vacant rather than re-let them. The huts could then be demolished until all occupants are finally rehoused.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Rodent Operative treated premises as listed below :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises.
1951				
Jan.	49	1	-	2
Feb.	55	1	-	2
March	56	1	-	2
April	55	2	-	2
May	57	1	-	2
June	32	-	72 M.H's.	2
July	56	3	-	2
August	41	-	-	2
Sept.	51	1	-	2
Oct.	56	-	-	2
Nov.	74	-	-	2
Dec.	20	3	72 M.H's.	2

FACTORIES ACTS.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	28		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	26	48		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding out-workers' premises).				
TOTAL	38	76		

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	5	5			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
TOTAL	9	9			

